

By investing time, talents and resources in children and families now, we will create caring communities where children will be less likely to become involved in the justice system later.

Through the INVEST IN CHILDREN Committee, efforts are being made to bring together community resources with the goal of growing healthy children who take responsibility for their actions and demonstrate caring for others.

We must provide children with opportunities to learn life skills to manage anger and resolve conflict positively.



Contact Jean Kuehl at the
Department of Correctional Services,
(319) 398-3675, for more information,
or to find out how you can be involved.



INVEST IN CHILDREN

How can you INVEST IN CHILDREN? • •



There are many ways that you can make a difference in a child's life.

Here are just a few:

- Get to know the kids in your neighborhood and reach out to a child in need!
- Be a mentor!
- Support child-serving agencies!
- Give a single parent a break!
- Volunteer at a neighborhood school!
- Join The INVEST IN CHILDREN effort!

***Investing your time
and talents in a
child's life will pay off!***

To explore other investment opportunities, contact United Way of East Central Iowa

First Call for Help
at (319) 398-5372
or at www.uweci.org

The INVEST IN CHILDREN effort seeks to promote the use of community and restorative justice principles in growing healthy children and families.

What *is* **Community Justice**?

Community Justice is about getting ahead of problems before they occur.

It is about citizens working together to strengthen communities and reduce the threat of crime.

It is about keeping our community safe!

Community Justice involves partnerships for prevention, early intervention and problem solving.

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice focuses on our personal responsibility to acknowledge and repair harm when it happens.

Restorative Justice encourages individuals to understand who they hurt, how they hurt them and what needs to happen to make things right. It means taking responsibility for our actions, building on strengths and healing relationships.

Community and Restorative Justice requires that we invest in solutions to create safe and peaceful communities where everyone is treated with mutual respect.

INVEST IN CHILDREN grew out of the Community/Restorative Justice Task Force of the Sixth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services.

The Mission of the Community/Restorative Justice Task Force is to enhance community safety and well-being through the use of a model of personal responsibility.

Other grass root efforts are:

- Educating the Community;
- Developing Victim Sensitive Practices;
- Promoting **Offender** Accountability;
- Creating Community; and
- Building Partnerships between the Community and the Criminal Justice System.

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HOW DO **CORRECTIONAL**
CLIENTS FEEL **ABOUT**
PARTICIPATING IN SERVICE
PROJECTS?

"Things I hadn't remembered or thought about since I was a child came back to me. I guess remembering those memories was the **best part** of doing the paint **smocks**. Second to that, I was doing something useful that benefited the **little** children. That made it! I felt that I was being an asset to someone who needed help. It gave me **self-worth**."

~ Deb

Art Smock Project

"All the ~~people~~ from young to o/d that I met and **worked** with were **great** fun. I learned so much not only from Mark Pingnot and the people from **Indian** Creek Nature Center, but from **socializing** with all the people who attended the Maple **Syrup** Festival. I am going to do more volunteer work for Indian Creek Nature **Center**."

~ Mike

Maple Syruping Project

"This project helped me to keep an open mind and try something I had never done before. We **all** had to work together as a team. We did very well in **cooperating** with each other. This made it fun."

~ J.B.

Prairie Restoration Project



Sharing a meal after a day of hard work.

Our community service program needs community members, such as yourself, to complete these meaningful projects. Ways in which you can help include:

- ✦ Donations of shop **and/or** gardening tools and services.
- ✦ Volunteering to work with us on community service projects.
- ✦ Sharing your ideas for future community service projects.

WON'T YOU HELP?

For more information please contact either:

◆ Elizabeth Kueny
31 9/398-3675
e-mail:elizabeth.kueny@doc.state.ia.us

OR

◆ Carol Luth
319/398-3907
e-mail:carol.luth@doc.state.ia.us

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support **of** the National Tree Trust Organization and the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation in funding many of our service projects.

**"COMMUNITY
SERVICE...
More Than
Hard **Work**"**



"Cooperation"

A program of the

**Community Corrections
Improvement Association**

**951 29th Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404**

"Community Service...More Than Hard Work"

THE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Community Service is an opportunity for correctional clients to "give back" to the community which has been harmed by criminal activity. Meaningful work projects are performed at public/private non-profit organizations throughout our community. Community members work side-by-side clients in completing this work

WHY IS COMMUNITY SERVICE MORE THAN HARD WORK?

Our service projects are indeed "hard work". However, much more than hard work occurs. Community service projects are an excellent vehicle for:

- Building respectful, responsible relationships between community volunteers and correctional clients.
- Providing opportunities for the public to see correctional clients as a resource to the community.
- Restoring the community which has been harmed by criminal activity.
- Exploring job opportunities and developing new skills.
- Working as a team while contributing individual talents to benefit a larger cause.
- Experiencing a sense of belonging and an internal satisfaction for making a contribution towards a job well done.

WHAT COMMUNITY PROJECTS HAVE WE COMPLETED?



**Indian Creek
Nature Center
Sugar Maple
Reforestation
Project**

"Building environmental stewardship."



**Sewing Paint
Smocks for
St. Paul's
Pre-School**

**Building Ball
Launchers for
Adaptive
Physical
Education
Classes**



"Enriching Children's Lives"

**"Building
Neighborhoods"**

**Habitat for
Humanity
Home**



**Tree
Planting
J St. Apts.
Highway
Buffer**



**Making
Dream
Catchers
for Victim's
Rights
Week 2000**

"Increasing empathy towards crime victims".